

Background

On April 30 through May 3, 2018, EPA sampled groundwater west of Petenwell Lake in northeast Juneau County, Wisconsin, after receiving complaints and information from citizens in the area regarding private drinking water well contamination.

EPA collected groundwater samples at 41 temporary boring locations and 5 private drinking water wells. The samples were analyzed for:

- nutrients
- anions
- total metals
- nitrate isotopes

Note that not all samples were analyzed for all parameters.

EPA used temporary or “point-in-time” groundwater sampling techniques with the goal of characterizing the nature and extent of pollutants in groundwater. This information can be used to identify potential sources of groundwater pollutants and potential impacts to drinking water sources.

The borings were located in a grid network designed to characterize groundwater conditions upgradient and downgradient of potential sources of well contamination. Samples were collected at two depths to better characterize the extent of potential nitrate contamination in the aquifer.

EPA will analyze the results and coordinate further with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to determine appropriate next steps. EPA continues to evaluate data collected during the April 30 to May 3, 2018 sampling event. EPA will coordinate further with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to determine the appropriate next steps to protect public health.